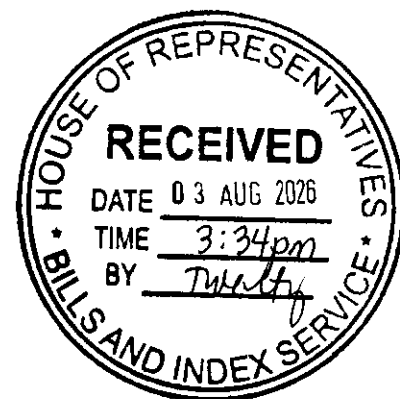




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 10521

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE WALING-WALING (*VANDA SANDERIANA*) AS THE
NATIONAL ORCHID OF THE PHILIPPINES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Waling-waling (*Vanda Sanderiana*) is an orchid species found only in the forests of Mindanao, particularly in Davao, Maguindanao, South Cotabato, and Basilan.¹ Renowned for its large and striking blooms, it is highly valued by orchid growers and breeders around the world, and has earned the title "Queen of Philippine Orchids."²

Despite its significance, the Waling-waling has become increasingly rare in the wild. The destruction of its natural habitat, coupled with years of overcollection, has caused a sharp decline in its population.³ As such, it is now listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the highest level of international protection for species threatened with extinction due to trade.⁴

This bill declares the Waling-waling as the National Orchid of the Philippines. It directs the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to lead conservation and propagation efforts and tasks the National Museum of the Philippines to preserve and promote the species' scientific, historical, and cultural significance. The measure also seeks to increase public appreciation of the Waling-waling and support ongoing efforts to protect it.

¹ Manila Bulletin, *August orchid of the Month: Waling-waling, the queen of Philippine flowers*, 10 August 2023, accessed at: <https://manila.bulletin.net.ph/entertainment/2023/08/10/august-orchid-of-the-month-waling-waling-the-queen-of-philippine-flowers/>

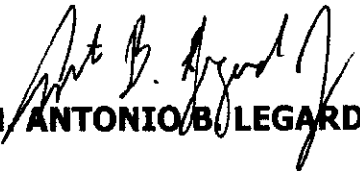
² Manila Bulletin, *Philippines' national orchid Waling-waling faces extinction, conservation efforts urged*, 6 July 2026, accessed at: <https://manila.bulletin.net.ph/entertainment/2026/07/06/philippines-national-orchid-waling-waling-faces-extinction-conservation-efforts-urged/>

³ *Id.*

⁴ Gulf News, *Waling-waling to be new national flower for Philippines*, 15 September 2018, accessed at: <https://gulfnews.com/uae/philippines-waling-waling-to-be-new-national-flower-1.1078888>

As the Waling-waling is native exclusively to the Philippines, it is an inherent part of the country's natural heritage. Declaring it the National Orchid affirms the country's commitment to preserving this natural heritage for future generations.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought. This bill also serves as the counterpart measure to that filed in the Senate by Senator Loren Legarda.


HON. ANTONIO B. LEGARDA, JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 10521

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

AN ACT
DECLARING THE WALING-WALING (*VANDA SANDERIANA*) AS THE
NATIONAL ORCHID OF THE PHILIPPINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. ***Waling Waling as the National Orchid.*** – For its endemcity, rarity, beauty, popularity, and its increasing cultural importance, the orchid “Waling-waling” known scientifically as *Vanda sanderiana* (*Rchb.f*) *Rchb.f* is hereby declared as the National Orchid of the Philippines.

The declaration is distinct from and without prejudice to the “Sampaguita” (*Jasminum sambac*), which, for its popularity, ornamental value, fragrance, and role in legends and traditions, was declared the National Flower of the Philippines by virtue of Proclamation No. 652, dated February 1, 1943.

Section 2. ***Lead Agencies.*** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall lead in protecting, conserving, and facilitating the propagation of the Waling-waling orchid. The DENR shall promulgate rules and regulations for this purpose within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

The National Museum of the Philippines shall preserve, study, and promote the Waling-waling orchid and its significance to the natural and cultural heritage of the Philippines and the Filipino people.

Section 3. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

Section 4. **Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,